

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of use of water-dilutable condensation resins **AB** as dispersing agents for pigments, comprising mixing the said pigments and the said condensation resins **AB** to prepare pigment concentrates wherein in the case of inorganic pigments, 100 g of the pigment concentrate comprise from 40 g to 70 g of inorganic pigment, from 5 g to 20 g of the condensation resin **AB**, up to 10 g of a wetting agent and up to 10 g of a solvent; wherein in the case of organic pigments, 100 g of the pigment concentrate comprise from 20 g to 40 g of organic pigment, from 5 g to 40 g of the condensation resin **AB**, and up to 10 g of a wetting agent and up to 10 g of a solvent; and wherein in the case of carbon black pigments, 100 g of the pigment concentrate comprise from 15 g to 30 g of carbon black, from 10 g to 30 g of the condensation resin **AB**, up to 10 g of a wetting agent and up to 10 g of a solvent, wherein the condensation resins **AB** have an acid number of from 20 mg/g to 180 mg/g and are obtainable by condensation at a temperature of from 100 °C to 220 °C under formation of water which escapes at the reaction temperature, of components **A** containing acid groups and having an acid number of from 30 mg/g to 240 mg/g, which are copolymers of olefinically unsaturated monomers which monomers comprise monomers **A1** which contain acid groups and are chosen from alpha,beta-unsaturated carboxylic acids having 3 to 13 carbon atoms and monoalkyl esters of unsaturated dicarboxylic acids having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical, monomers **A2** which are free of acid groups and are selected from the group consisting of alkyl esters of monobasic alpha, beta-unsaturated aliphatic carboxylic acids having 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the acid component and 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl component; the dialkyl esters of alpha,beta-unsaturated aliphatic dicarboxylic acids having 4 to 8 carbon atoms in the acid component and 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl component; the nitriles of the acids mentioned; the hydroxyalkyl esters of the monobasic alpha,beta-unsaturated aliphatic carboxylic

acids mentioned having 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the acid component and 2 to 20 carbon atoms in the hydroxyalkyl component, also including oligo-oxyalkylene glycol monoesters having a number-average degree of polymerisation of from 2 to 50, the alkylene groups of which are selected from the ethylene and 1,2-propylene groups and mixtures thereof; and the vinylaromatics and the vinyl esters of saturated aliphatic linear and branched monocarboxylic acids having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, the monomers A2 being employed in mass fractions of from 67 % to 90 %, based on the mass of the monomer mixture of A1 and A2, and up to 50 % of monomers A3 which are mono- or polyunsaturated fatty acids having from 14 to 30 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups or esters thereof with aliphatic alcoholshaving from 1 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups, which monomers A3 are present in the monomer mixture of A1, A2, and A3 in a mass fraction of up to 50 %, on the one hand, and hydrophobic polyesters B made from aliphatic monobasic and dibasic carboxylic acids B2, and dihydric aliphatic linear, branched or cyclic alcohols B1, the said polyesters B containing hydroxyl groups and having a hydroxyl number of from 20 mg/g to 300 mg/g and a number-average molar mass M_n of from 500 g/mol to 5,000 g/mol, and the mass fraction of component A in the reaction mixture for the synthesis of the condensation resins AB is 30 % to 90 % and that of component B is 70 % to 10 %, with the proviso that the sum of the mass fractions of the two components always gives 100 %, and wherein the aliphatic monobasic acids are fatty acids.

Claims 2 and 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of use of claim 2 1, characterised in that the mass fraction of the monomers A1 in the mixture of monomers A1 and A2 is from 10 % to 33 %.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (original): The method of use of claim 1, characterised in that the condensation resins AB are neutralised and dispersed in water before the mixing with pigments.

Claim 7 (cancelled)